



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

January 31, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

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IMPLEMENTING THE COUNTYWIDE YOUTH SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN

On March 29, 2011, a motion by Mayor Antonovich directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to implement the Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Action Plan and report back quarterly, for one year, on its progress. The action plan details how the participating County departments and County-affiliated partners will work toward establishing youth self-sufficiency as a Countywide goal, using existing resources, to form new partnerships, test pilot programs and activities, and make policy changes that will better prepare youth, ages birth to 24, served by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation) to become successful and thriving adults. On April 28, 2011, a memo was submitted to your Board outlining the structure that was established to ensure the plan's actions are achieved. Quarterly updates were submitted on August 19, 2011 and October 24, 2011; this is the third quarterly report.

In the attached action plan (Attachment I), the activities achieved for each of the 56 actions is detailed. After submitting the original 54-point action plan to your Board for adoption on March 2, 2011, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) volunteered to join the self-sufficiency initiative, adding two actions that they would be held accountable for completing. This brings the total number of participating County departments and County-affiliated entities to 12.

To date, all 56 actions outlined in the plan have been completed. Some of the highlights across the four self-sufficiency outcome areas include:

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Permanency/Housing

- The Community Development Commission (CDC) ensured that an additional 200 new transitional housing (shared-bedroom) units for TAY in downtown Los Angeles are in development;
- The Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) awarded contracts to two permanent supportive housing providers that created an additional 80 beds for former DCFS or Probation youth who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; and
- The DCA ran credit checks on more than 2,100 DCFS youth and successfully identified and resolved identity theft issues for 104 of them. A dedicated direct telephone line to a DCA investigator has been established for DCFS and Probation youth and staff.

Education

- DCFS expanded its First Supervisorial District education program to two additional school districts, and is expanding it to all five Supervisorial Districts in Fiscal Year 2012-13;
- DCFS created an electronic referral system for eligible children to Head Start programs across all 18 of its offices, referring over 1,100 three and four-year olds to date;
- The Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) secured commitments from 11 public and private afterschool service providers to increase the number of DCFS and Probation youth enrolled in their programs;
- Los Angeles County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services increased the tutoring services it provides through its contractors to serve, at a minimum, an additional 100 youth, and expand the age range of eligible youth to ages four to 21; and
- The Office of Child Care (OCC) identified 289 parenting system youth and provided information on child development services to group home staff, non-profit providers, DCFS regional administrators, and Probation staff working with them to promote enrollment in child development programs for their children before they exit care.

Career/Workforce Readiness

- Community and Senior Services (CSS) worked with the Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board to adopt a policy that prioritizes DCFS and Probation youth for their employment services and earmarks a minimum of 200 slots for them, representing a 33 percent increase in the number of system youth who will be served by these programs; and
- The Public Library implemented a volunteer program for DCFS and Probation youth that pairs them up with mentors among library staff and provides them with meaningful work/volunteer experience.

Social and Emotional Well-being

- The Department of Mental Health (DMH) hired 27 staff to provide Countywide community-based aftercare services to youth exiting juvenile camps;
- The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) implemented a pilot screening process that connects DCFS youth to all DPSS services they are eligible for;
- DPSS developed an electronic process for issuing Medi-Cal benefits to youth exiting probation camps so that these benefits are automatically restored upon their release;
- Probation will now hold multidisciplinary team meetings and develop case plans addressing the four self-sufficiency outcome areas for all youth exiting group homes; and
- Probation implemented an Integrated Treatment Model at four juvenile camps and one juvenile hall that promotes social and leadership skills through a 10-week treatment module and created youth councils at each of these sites.

As you can see, within their existing resources, these 12 departments and County affiliated agencies have made significant strides in creating the kinds of partnerships and environments necessary to help system youth ultimately achieve self-sufficiency.

The self-sufficiency workgroup, consisting of 18 representatives from the CEO, DCFS, CSS, DMH, Probation, DPSS, CDC, Commission for Children and Families, children's advocates, philanthropy, non-profit providers, caregivers and a former foster youth has been meeting since June 2010 to develop and monitor the implementation of the action plan in a way that simultaneously promotes accountability, transparency, and continuity.

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Additionally, 31 departmental point-persons have been actively working to achieve the actions identified in the self-sufficiency plan. With the action plan now completed, this workgroup is focusing on how to create a structure that institutionalizes these partnerships, meaningfully incorporates community partners, and further establishes the type of culture and environment needed to support self-sufficiency. The next quarterly report will be submitted to your Board in April 2012.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Trish Ploehn, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-4532 or via e-mail at tploehn@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:TP
CDM:yw

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Children and Family Services
 Commission for Children and Families
 Community Development Commission
 Community and Senior Services
 Consumer Affairs
 Office of Education
 Mental Health
 Office of Child Care
 Parks and Recreation
 Probation
 Public Library
 Public Social Services